

BEFORE THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Filed Testimony of

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Dear Members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding Senate Bill No. 2, "An Act Concerning Electric Customer Consumer Protection". As an energy consultant for numerous competitive suppliers for the last several years I applaud your efforts to redevelop the existing web site to enhance the consumer's ability to make educated comparisons of supplier offers directly through the marketplace.

Having been involved with the burgeoning energy industry in Connecticut since 2008 in many different aspects I have witnessed firsthand many of the initiatives the retail energy suppliers have instituted on their own in recent years to make the marketplace more consumer friendly. Additionally, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority has opened a docket to examine the supplier industry in Connecticut and the rules that govern it. The PURA docket [13-07-18] is entitled "PURA Establishment of Rules for Electric Suppliers and EDCs Concerning Operations and Marketing in the Electric Retail Market." This docket encompasses and will examine each and every licensed supplier in Connecticut.

PURA has scheduled four days of evidentiary hearings of Connecticut retail energy suppliers and has committed to adding additional time for hearings should it be deemed necessary. One can reasonably assume Office of Consumer Counsel and PURA will use the information gathered in this docket to do a thorough analysis of each company in the retail electric market. My previous experience with PURA leads me to believe that they have a unique level of expertise and the ability to reach out to and work with industries professionals allowing them to balance the legitimate concerns of consumers with those of the retail energy industry. This is why I see this extensive process as a golden opportunity for PURA, OCC and the suppliers, to work in conjunction with each other to further strengthen the industry by developing relevant consumer protections while still allowing consumers a choice for their electric suppliers.

There are currently many market and supply pressures that only seasoned energy professionals can fully explain that are contributing to the current rise in raw energy prices being felt throughout the Northeast. Therefore I encourage the Committee to ensure any bill that passes

this session will take in account any PURA rulings and the information being provided by all parties involved in the current supplier docket. This will ensure that the industry evolves as it was intended and that real reforms and ultimately lower electric rates will be the result of this attempt at consumer protection.

Thank you for your time. I appreciate your consideration of my testimony in this matter.